

Philanthropy and Volunteerism

by Sophia O'Donnell

It's not how much we do,
but how much love we put in the doing.
It is not how much we give,
but how much love we put in the giving. ~ Mother Teresa

People around the world enjoy giving back to their community, their country, their planet, or their neighbor. Mother Teresa is perhaps most famous for dedicating her life to the service of others. But people all over the world engage in philanthropy and volunteerism in both big and small ways. It is an integral part of our economies. More importantly, it is a valuable part of the lives of those who give and those who receive.

Philanthropy is the effort to increase the well-being of mankind through charitable aid or donations. Philanthropy is private initiatives for public good, as opposed to money from the public sector. Volunteerism is the act of giving time without expectation of compensation. Although the two are not the same, they are intertwined, as charitable organizations depend on both the funding of philanthropists and the service of volunteers.

There are many famous philanthropists. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, now dedicates himself full time to his philanthropic organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation has an asset trust endowment of 33 billion U.S. dollars and gave three billion U.S. dollars to grantees in 2009. The foundation is dedicated primarily towards public health, antipoverty, and education. Warren Buffet, another famous philanthropist, contributes his own money to the Gates Foundation at close to two billion U.S. dollars a year. The foundation gives grants to other charitable organizations such as Rotary International and Save the Children.

Philanthropy is the institution of giving money, whereas volunteering provides a more personal and direct connection with those in need. Volunteering in the United States is popular. Twenty-six percent of Americans volunteered last year: roughly 60 million people. The dollar value of hours volunteered is estimated to be 162 billion U.S. dollars. Americans volunteer in many different types of organizations, from providing assistance in natural disasters, to serving as teaching assistants or foster parents. Non-governmental organizations, such as the American Red

Cross, United Way, or other religious organizations are also popular places to volunteer.

One of the most notable federally sponsored volunteer programs in the U.S. is the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps began in 1961 in response to President John F. Kennedy's call for Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." President Kennedy believed that we, as Americans, could promote peace by providing volunteers to assist developing countries, gain an understanding of other cultures, and share with those cultures the diverse face of Americans. At one point, there were over 1000 Peace Corps volunteers in India.

(Continued on page 2)



With a little help from Mickey Mouse, Chicago residents (L-R) Danielle Rub, Dwayne Gibson and Marissa Sproul begin a volunteer effort on September 29, 2009, at the Bethune School of Excellence in Chicago, Illinois. The trio joined hundreds of volunteers at the elementary school to landscape and revitalize the campus. It was all part of the announcement to launch Disney Parks' new program for 2010 called "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day." To celebrate volunteerism, Disney Parks in 2010 will give a free one-day admission to a Walt Disney World Resort or Disneyland Resort theme park to one million people in the U.S. and Canada who perform volunteer service with a participating organization. (AP Photo/Disney, Gene Duncan)

The American Center

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

H O L I D A Y S

November 5: Diwali (Laxmi Pujan)
November 11: Veterans Day
November 17: Bakri Id
November 25: Thanksgiving Day

A WORD FROM THE CENTER

November marks the great American holiday of Thanksgiving. It brings to mind turkey, stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pie, and football: We eat too much turkey, watch too much football and feast on pumpkin pie. It's a time when Americans get together with family and friends and reflect on all we have to be thankful for. As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking on what I am thankful for.

Here are a few of the things I'm thankful for:

- Being here in Mumbai for the next three years as the Cultural Affairs Officer.
- The vibrancy and activity of the American Center and Library.
- The warm and welcoming reception I've received. I know that you will be excellent guides for me and enthusiastically share Indian culture with me as I share American culture with you.
- My family and friends.
- Technology – it makes the world smaller (and easier to stay in touch with friends and family!).

Although I've just arrived, I know that the time will pass all too quickly.

I look forward to an exciting and busy three years in Mumbai.

Best,



Angela Gemza
Cultural Affairs Officer

(Continued from page 1)

I, personally, was inspired by President Kennedy's belief, and after I graduated from university, I became a Peace Corps volunteer. I served in Niger, West Africa, as a health education volunteer for over two years. I assisted a Nigerian nurse to promote better health among pregnant and nursing women and their babies.

I evaluated pregnant women for risk, gave well baby check-ups, and educated people on nutrition, sanitation, and the importance of vaccinations. In a country with one of the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality, I had my work cut out for me.

Volunteering isn't just about working. It's also about sharing in the experience of others. True to the Peace Corps philosophy, I lived among the people I served in a small hut made of mud bricks and a straw roof. I joined my neighbors each evening for meals of millet porridge. I learned a language called Zarma. I learned a great deal about Islam, practiced throughout Niger. And because the people with whom I lived had never personally known an American before, I was able to share my own culture and break down many stereotypes they held. When I remember my small hut silhouetted against the magnificent starry sky, I consider it the most beautiful home I've ever had. When I think of the warm laughter of my Nigerian friends, I believe my experience there was the greatest gift I've ever received.

I echo many volunteers when I say: "you get more than you give" from volunteering. Through philanthropy and volunteering we can not only work to make our world a better place, we can enrich ourselves in the process.

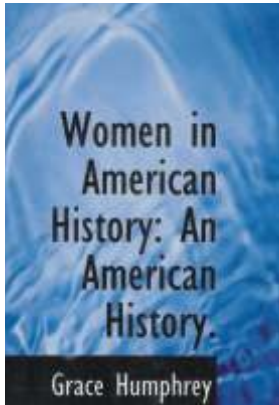
Sophia O'Donnell works at the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai



President Clinton helps to paint a classroom at Cardozo High School in Washington, to promote volunteerism on Martin Luther King Day on January 19, 1998. "We really wanted to emphasize that Martin Luther King's birthday is a day of service – a day on, not a day off," Clinton said. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

New Additions to the Library



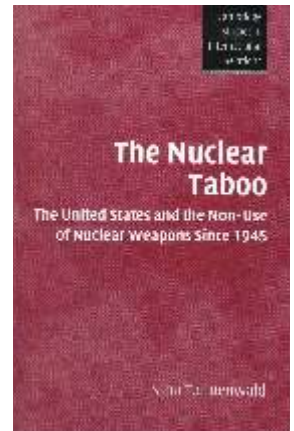
Women in American History: An American History

by Grace Humphrey
BiblioLife, 2009

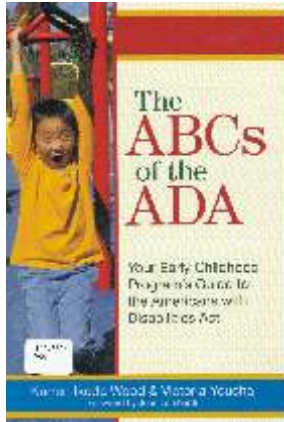
This book is one amongst the BiblioLife Reproduction Series, and is a reproduction of the book published prior to 1923. The series is a project to preserve the legacy of literary history and is a collection of 15 stories of women whose splendid achievements have contributed to the history of the United States.

The Nuclear Taboo: The United and the Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons Since 1945

by Nina Tannenwald
Cambridge University Press, 2007



Cogently arguing against conventional deterrence theory, the author subtly distinguishes between taboo and norm, and taboo and tradition in a scholarly examination of the historical record, to show that non-use of nuclear weapons by the U.S. evolved through the Cold War, as well as proxy wars like the Korean and Vietnam wars.



The ABCs of the ADA: Your Early Childhood Program's Guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act

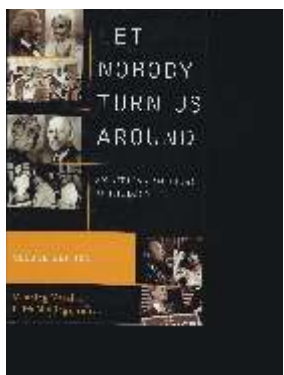
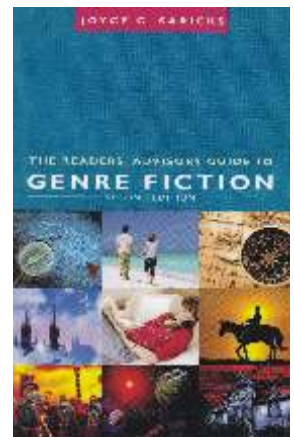
by Karren Ikeda Wood and Victoria Youcha
Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 2009

This informative and practical guidebook gives readers everything they need to implement a successful plan for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It includes practical checklists, guidelines, and sample policy statements to create parent handbooks and operations manuals.

The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction

by Joyce G. Saricks
American Library Association, 2009

This book serves as a guide to explore fiction genres. It provides key authors and themes within 15 genres, an explanation of how the different genres overlap, and the elements of fiction most likely to entice readers.



Let Nobody Turn Us Around: An African American Anthology

Edited by Manning Marable and Leith Mullings
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009

An anthology of a range of writings that reflect the political thought of Black Americans in the United States from colonial times to the end of the 20th century. It includes varied opinions from women and men, workers, and the intelligentsia.

Ask a Librarian: Please write to the American Library at libref@state.gov for research queries related to information on U.S. international relations, education, law and legislation, English language, and literature.

The History of Muslims in America
Discussion led by **Steven Fox**

Monday, November 15
American Center Auditorium

6:00 p.m.

The November "Mumbai Mondays" will look at the complex and colorful place of Muslims in U.S. history. We will explore the place of race and immigration in the history of Muslims in America, with special attention to the central figure of Malcolm X.

Steven Fox is a Foreign Service Officer with longstanding interest in the role of religion in national and international affairs. He has an undergraduate degree in World Religions and a Master's degree in Theology. He previously lived in China, Thailand and Kuwait.

American Center Auditorium
3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Friday, November 19

Ivy League playboy Tom Hanks gets more than he bargained for when he joins the Peace Corps in order to avoid massive gambling debts. Riotous "third world" comedy also stars John Candy, Rita Wilson, and Tim Thomerson.

Volunteers
(1985, 107 mins)



Volunteer Donna Nix of Nashville, Tennessee, and others give their spare time to put "food bags" together at Nashville Cares on August 20, 2002. Nashville Cares provides services for people living with HIV/AIDS in and around Nashville. After the September 11 attacks, Donna Nix decided to volunteer her time to help others in her area. (AP Photo/John Russell)

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Admission to American Center programs, restricted to persons over 14, unless otherwise specified, is on a first-come, first-served basis. The auditorium doors will open 30 minutes before the start of the program.